



THE MCNAIR CHRONICLE

Scholars Recognized at McNair Banquet

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From left to right: 2007-2008 Graduating McNair Scholars Richard Martinez, Rehmatullah Jaghoori, and Aude Negrete-Banos

McNair Scholars Program Staff

This program is federally funded by the United States Department of Education in the amount of \$271,392 per year.

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The 2008 McNair Annual Awards Banquet was held in late April. Graduating Scholars celebrated their academic achievements, while current Scholars looked on in preparation for the Summer Research Internship. There were thirteen graduating Scholars this year: **Neal Bates, Tekalign Burka, Derrais Carter, Ofelia Castro, Christopher De La Cruz, Zachary Fischer, Jessica Fleming, Rehmatullah Jaghoori, Brandi Hamilton, Ken Kmak, Tung Le, Richard Martinez, and Aude Negrete-Banos.**

For the first time in history, the banquet was held off-campus, thanks to the sponsorship of Genovese Italian Restaurant in downtown Lawrence. The evening kicked-off with delicious appetizers and welcoming words from Dr. Rodriguez. The wonderful dinner and special desserts were followed by motivational speeches by graduating Scholar and Ronald E. McNair Challenger Award winner **Rehmatullah Jaghoori**, and former McNair Scholar **Belinda Hinojos**. After the graduates received certificates of merit and congratulatory remarks from Dr. Kamatuka, the special awards were announced. **Aude Negrete-Banos** received the LaTina Sullivan Memorial Award, **Derrais Carter** earned the Chico Herbison Leadership Award, and **Richard Martinez** was presented with the McNair Spirit Award.

Scholar Achievements

Kasey Cullors and **Derrais Carter**, current McNair Scholars, presented papers at the *2008 Joint Conference of the National Popular Culture and American Culture Associations* in San Francisco. Kasey's paper was entitled, "The Evolution of Hip-Hop Through Music Video: Sex and Identity." Derrais presented his 2007 McNair Summer Research Internship project: "From Habermas to Hip-Hop: Symbolic Power in the Black Public Sphere."

cd

Christopher DeLaCruz, current McNair Scholar, received a Gilman Scholarship to study abroad at the University of Cape Town in South Africa during the spring 2008 semester.

cd

Van-Anh Hoang, current McNair Scholar, has been inducted into the Golden Key Honor Society.

cd

Aaron Carlson, former McNair Scholar, has been hired as a primary outreach therapist at the Rose Brooks Center. He works with children, adolescents and adults who have witnessed or survived domestic violence.

cd

Aarika Fulson, former McNair Scholar, earned a master's degree in May 2007 and is currently the Lead College and Career Coordinator at F.L. Schlagle High School in Kansas City, KS.

cd

Raven Heavy Runner, former McNair Scholar, has been promoted to the Child and Family Welfare Services Supervisor position with the State of Washington's Division of Children and Family Services. He spoke at the state capitol regarding the Indian Child Welfare Act in February 2008.

cd

Tim Kochanski, former McNair Scholar, has published an article in *Computers in Higher Education Economics Review* entitled "Moving Economic Models From the Chalk Board to the Computer: A Computer-Based Assignment Based on a Dynamic Cournot Model."

cd

Joni Murphy, former McNair Scholar and professor of English at Haskell Indian Nations University, was awarded a Fulbright Award to study in Nepal during summer 2007. In addition, she received a 2007-2008 American Indian College Fund's Mellon Faculty Enhancement Fellowship and curated an exhibit of Native American quilts that is currently touring the U.S.

cd

Michael Speak, former McNair Scholar, has been accepted to the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program as an Assistance Language Teacher.

cd

Thomas Weso, former McNair Scholar and professor at Kansas City Community College-Longview, has published an article in the *Overland Review Journal* entitled "The Evolutionary Narrative of the Pawnee Nation." He also served as reader for the Educational Testing Service in the field of U.S. history during the summer of 2007.

McNair Mentor Accolades

Elaine Gerbert, associate professor of East Asian Languages and cultures, traveled to Japan in November to present at the Asuka Studies Symposium and the Faculty of International Japanese Studies. Meiji University in Tokyo will publish her research regarding Japanese studies in the United States in spring 2008.



Yolanda Jackson, associate professor of psychology and applied behavioral sciences, has been granted a sabbatical leave for the fall 2008 semester by the Kansas Board of Regents. She will study resilience among children who have suffered maltreatment.



Charles Middaugh, professor of pharmaceutical chemistry, was invited to give the KU School of Education's Department of Special Education 50th Anniversary Lecture in February.



Glenn Adams, professor of pharmaceutical chemistry, and **Patricia Hawley**, associate professor of psychology, have been awarded tenure by the Kansas Board of Regents.

Current and Former Scholars to Attend Graduate School

The spring semester is traditionally a time of great anticipation for McNair Scholars who are applying for graduate school admissions. For several current and former KU McNair Scholars, the anxiety of waiting for letters of admission to graduate school has turned into excitement.

KU McNair Scholars will study from coast-to-coast, as they will be pursuing graduate degrees in locations as diverse as the University of Pennsylvania (**Rehmatullah Jaghoori**, Fine Arts) and the University of California-Santa Barbara (**Katherine Acosta**, Anthropology). Yet two Scholars entering American Studies graduate programs will remain in the Heartland of the United States: **Derrais Carter** will enter the University of Iowa, while **Aude Negrete-Banos** joins the same program at the University of Kansas.

Jessica Fleming and **Belinda Hinojos** will continue their graduate studies in Psychology this fall, while **Zach Fischer** will be warming up in his graduate program at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Also, **Tung Le** will commence graduate studies in Physical Therapy in the fall.

Maryland Research Conference Reflections

By Aude Negrete-Banos
Current McNair Scholar

This spring I had the opportunity to attend the TRIO Legislative Breakfast in Washington D.C. and to present my McNair research at the University of Maryland. This was a great opportunity for several reasons.

*First of all, I am a political science major, therefore Washington D.C. was a great place for me to network and get to know people. I was able to meet three Kansas Members of Congress: **Rep. Dennis Moore**, **Rep. Nancy Boyda** and **Rep. Jerry Moran**. It was especially interesting to meet Rep. Nancy Boyda, because she took the time to give us a tour of the capitol and provide us with her insight on the history of it. Furthermore, I had the opportunity to speak about my positive experiences as a McNair Scholar, and met other students that have also benefited from this program.*

The McNair Research Conference was also a wonderful experience. There, I was able to meet other Scholars, network, and learn from them. They used great research methods that I hadn't thought of before. Watching others present gave me great ideas for future projects, and these students did not hesitate to ask me questions to further their own knowledge. They helped me understand other subjects I never thought I would be familiar with, and gave me deeper understanding on areas I wanted to become familiar with.

This was a great experience, on many levels. It almost made me wish I could stay in college longer, so that I could go to more conferences. Although it was a lot of work to make up the class work for the week I was gone, it was worth every minute. I could not have gained the knowledge I received from this experience anywhere else.



Scholars Tung Le (l) and Aude Negrete-Banos (r) view the sights in Washington, D.C. while attending the 2008 Maryland McNair Research Conference.

Birth Announcements



Ephraim John Anderson

born February 16th
to current Scholar **Joshua Anderson**
and wife Rachel.



Marcus Amante Gabriel

born February 25th to former Scholar
Karina Amante and husband
Jean Gabriel



Simone Elisheva Dalton

born April 25th to McNair Academic
Services Coordinator **Allyson Flaster**
and husband Raymond Dalton.



2008 SRI Participants

The following Scholars have been selected to participate in the 2008 KU McNair Summer Research Internship (mentors appear in parenthesis):

- Joshua Anderson** (Joseph Harrington);
- Earl Brooks** (Maryemma Graham);
- Harriet Browne** (Sandra Gray);
- Ofelia Castro** (Fred Rodriguez);
- Don Claus** (Graham Wilson);
- Kasey Cullors** (Dorothy Pennington);
- Ibari Ezekwe** (Andrea Greenhoot);
- Joshua Gapetz** (Mark Joslyn);
- Sabrina Gregersen** (Omri Gillath);
- Vernon Harris** (Glenn Adams);
- Jennifer Henslee** (Nyla Branscombe);
- Eric Martinez** (Nyla Branscombe);
- Jay Middleton** (Pat Hawley);
- Mahalet Misgana** (Sara Fergusson/Tracey LaPierre);
- Sarah Neff** (James Gentry);
- Aude Negrete-Banos** (Ruben Flores);
- Sylvia Niccum** (Rosalea Postma-Cattar);
- Noy Phimpasone** (Rick Ingram);
- Lisa Reichuber** (Dennis Karpowitz);
- Chris Reine** (Yolanda Jackson).

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Scholar Spotlight: Vernon Harris

By Ofelia Castro
McNair Student Assistant

Vernon Harris, a senior in psychology, has a busy summer schedule ahead. He will conduct a summer research internship under Dr. Glenn Adams. Through this project, he will be a part of a social psychology research team that is examining people's responses to Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X's ideologies and to policies that have an assimilation or nationalistic bias. Eventually, Vernon would like to attend Emporia State University for their school psychology graduate program. With a master's degree, he plans on working for a school district assisting students and teachers.

The McNair Scholars Program offers a variety of opportunities for Vernon. He feels that some of the most important aspects are the tutoring, symposia, interviewing techniques for graduate school, hands on research experience, and "it looks great on your vita." He finds it helpful to be in a group that is in a same situation and occasionally in the same courses.

Vernon is married and has a 2 year old daughter named Amayah. Because of his busy schedule Vernon spends most of his free time playing with his daughter. Occasionally he finds time for a game of basketball, hanging out with his friends, and fishing. He is expecting his second child in September!



Vernon Harris
Current McNair Scholar